

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCA-01

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O 261510Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5717

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0461

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CGEN, PINT, PFOR, PGOV, SPOP, PO, MZ

SUBJECT: GPRM EXPANDS EXPULSION DECREE

REF: (A) MAPUTO 294 (NOTAL), (B) MAPUTO 292 (NOTAL),

(C) MAPUTO 271 (NOTAL), (D) MBABANE 1015 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: GPRM ISSUED DECREE EXPANDING AND CLARIFYING EARLIER FRELIMO DECISION TO EXPEL THOSE WHO HAD RENOUNCED MOZAMBICAN NATIONALITY. NEW DECREE IS HARSH APPLICATION OF EARLIER ORDER AND NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS WHO MUST ABANDON MOZAMBIQUE WITHIN 60 DAYS IS LIKELY TO BE FAR IN EXCESS OF PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED 6,000.

END SUMMARY

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2. CAH XW ISSUED DECREE APRIL 26 CLARIFYING

EARLIER RESOLUTION OF FRELIMO STANDING POLITICAL COMMITTEE

EXPELLING THOSE WHO HAD RENOUNCED MOZAMBICAN CITIZENSHIP

(REFTEL C). DECREE IN PART STATES QUOTE THE RESOLUTION OF

THE STANDING POLITICAL COMMITTEE AFFECTS NOT ONLY THOSE INDIVIDUALS IDENTIFIED BY IT, WHO HAVE BY VIRTUE OF EXPRESSED DECLARATION ACCOMPLISHED FORMAL PROCESSES OF LOSS OF NATIONALITY, BUT ALSO THOSE MOZAMBICANS WHO HAVE BEHAVED IN FACT AS FOREIGNERS, NAMELY BY SOLICITING OR UTILIZING A PASSPORT OF NATIONALITY OTHER THAN MOZAMBICAN AFTER THE 5TH OF JUNE 1976 (DEADLINE FIXED FOR THE ISSUANCE OF FOREIGN PASSPORTS TO MOZAMBICANS) END QUOTE. INDIVIDUALS AFFECTED BY THIS NEW CLAUSE MUST REGISTER WITH THE POLICE WITHIN FIVE DAYS, AND HAVE SIXTY DAYS TO ABANDON THE COUNTRY.

3. DECREE ALSO CLARIFIES PROPERTY RIGHTS OF THOSE EXPELLED, AFTER MANY EXPELLEES HAD HAD THEIR PROPERTY SEIZED BY POLICE. DECREE GUARANTEES THAT IF EXPELLEES HAVE REGISTERED ALL OF THEIR PERSONAL PROPERTY WITH THE POLICE, THEY MAY SELL, EXCHANGE, OR DONATE ANY OF THAT PROPERTY, EXCEPT HOUSES. THEY MAY ALSO APPLY FOR PERMISSION TO EXPORT THAT PROPERTY, BUT THE LAWS WHICH APPLY TO EXPORTATION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY ARE EXTREMELY RESTRICTIVE.

4. DECREE STATES THAT TRAVEL COSTS ARE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE AFFECTED INDIVIDUALS, AND EXPELLEES MUST GIVE AT LEAST 24 HOURS NOTICE OF THEIR DEPARTURE DATES.

5. NEW DECREE PROVIDES SEVERE PENALTIES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE. THOSE WHO DO NOT LEAVE WITHIN SIXTY DAYS WILL BE ARRESTED AND HELD UP TO 180 DAYS, AND WILL HAVE THEIR PERSONAL PROPERTY CONFISCATED. THOSE ARRESTED, HOWEVER, CAN BE RELEASED AND EXPELLED WITHIN 24 HOURS AFTER PAYING A FINE NOT TO EXCEED 100,000 ESCUDOS (U.S. DOLS 3,000).

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6. COMMENT: IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, NEW LAW IS A HARSH INTERPRETATION OF THE FIRST, AND WILL AFFECT A GREATER NUMBER OF PEOPLE THAN EARLIER ANTICIPATED. PORTUGUESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAD BEEN CAUTIOUSLY ESTIMATING THAT UNDER A MORE LIERAL INTERPRETATION, PERHAPS 6,000 WOULD BE AFFECTED, BUT UNDER THE NEW DECREE, THE NUMBER AFFECTED MAY WELL BE HALF OF THE ESTIMATED 30,000 PORTUGUESE PASSPORT HOLDERS IN MOZAMBIQUE.

7. NEW DECREE IS SURPRISING, SINCE GPRM IN PRACTICE HAD BEEN PROCEEDING CAUTIOUSLY IN ITS APPLICATION OF THE ACT, AFTER SOME PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS HAD SURPASSED THE INTENT AND PROVISIONS OF THE FIRST DECREE BY GIVING RENUNCIANTS THREE DAYS TO LEAVE THE PROVINCES. WHEN THESE PEOPLE ARRIVED IN MAPUTO, MANY WERE TOLD THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE TO LEAVE, AND IN FACT SOME EXPELLEES HAD BEEN FORBIDDEN TO BOARD PLANES IN MAPUTO FOR LISBON OR SOUTH AFRICA. FURTHER, MINISTER OF INTERIOUR HAD ALSO ALLOWED SEVERAL

HUNDRED EXPELLEES TO STAY BEYOND THE EXPIRATION OF THE SIXTY DAYS TO PERMIT THEM TO CONCLUDE THEIR CONTRACTS (JUNE 24, 1977).

8. THE NEW DECREE MOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT BE WELL RECEIVED IN PORTUGAL, AND PORTUGAL-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS WILL SUFFER EVEN FURTHER. FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO TOLD BRITISH CHARGE THAT MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT WAS VERY UPSET WITH PORTUGUESE RESPONSE TO EARLIER DECREE AND THAT IT HAD EVERY INTENTION OF APPLYING EXPULSION ORDER FULLY.
END COMMENT

9. FOR MBABANE: REFTELS WILL BE REPEATED TO YOU. WE WILL RESPOND TO YOUR REFTEL AS SOON AS WE HAVE MORE INFORMATION ON NUMBERS AFFECTED AND ETHNIC BREAKDOWN.
DE PREE

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Message Attributes

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